

News Notes

HOSC annual social – The Hickam Officers' Spouses' Club will host its annual special activities social Tuesday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the officers club lanai. The event is free to HOSC members, eligible visitors and guests.

This year, the event is open to Hickam clubs and organizations as well as home business providers. For details or to reserve table space email: turners012 @hawaii.rr.com today.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving – The Hickam Airmen Against Drunk Driving is a program designed to save lives and careers. Call 449-RIDE (7433) or 449-LIFT (5438) if in need of a designated driver.

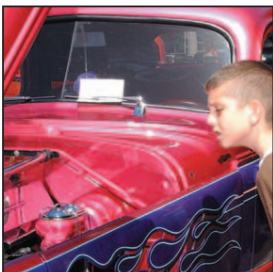
AADD can always use volunteers. As a volunteer, drivers will be required to be on-call from 6 p.m. Friday through 6 a.m. Sunday. Volunteer drivers must pick up the caller and their party from their stated location and drive the person to his place of residence only.

AADD on-line survey – Complete the survey at the following link to help better this program. Sign into the AF Portal, and be redirected automatically to the AADD website. <https://rso.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=OO-OT-PC-01>.

Any questions concerning the Airmen Against Drunk Driving Program or to volunteer, contact Airman 1st Class Tara

See NOTES, A10

In this week's Kukini



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Safety tip

If you compromise on safety,
You compromise on life.

114 Airmen make staff

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 100 Airmen got the news Wednesday that they will soon be taking on new and higher responsibilities as a noncommissioned officer in the United States Air Force.

With a promotion rate at 45.6 percent, the 114 out of 250 eligible senior airmen here topped the Air Force average of 40.14 percent. They are part of 2,117 Pacific Air Forces's Airmen to earn the stripe this year. The rate is slightly lower than 2004.

The complete list of selectees is posted online at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/>.

Team Hickam selectees were:

15th Airlift Wing

Sarah Kinsman

15th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

Jessica Baumgart
Meriles Curry
Marcus Paolos

15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Ryan Boehm
Jason Jones
Royce Kaufman
Benjamin Mainwaring
Craig Neeley
Stephanie Nelson
Jon Pack
Ryan Page
Bryan Racca

Reynaldo Rios
Steve Salido
Kelly Sanders
Dorsey Souza
Axel Torresrodriguez

15th Civil Engineer Squadron

Michael Allen
Irish Barretto

See AIRMEN, A4

Tuition assistance program becomes more accessible

By Kirsten Tacker
Kukini Photojournalist

Hickam's Base Training and Education Services office is set to convert to online tuition assistance by Monday.

"We'd like to have everybody doing it by then, but we know there is going to be a learning curve," noted Terry Brown education technician from the BTES office.

Students applying for OTA can access the Air Force Virtual Education Web site through the Air Force Portal Web site at www.my.af.mil.

"Everyone in the Air Force should be creating their Air Force Portal account. They will need to create a profile in AFVEC in order to apply for OTA. AFVEC is going to be the future of Air Force education," emphasized Mr. Brown.

"When people log onto the Air Force Portal screen, if they haven't already, they can start there. They can choose new or existing (user) and register there with or without their common access card," he continued.

If a student is unsure if they have signed up or have forgotten their user name or password they can click on reset password on the Air Force Portal site or they can dial DSN# 596-5771 and prompt 1-1-7 for assistance.

Once the user name and

password is complete or updated, students will be guided through a six-step application process for OTA, with a response time from the BTES of two business days.

"There are some people who will not have access to a computer. They can come in and see us as usual," advised Mr. Brown.

Before submitting OTA make sure there are no discrepancies on the information given that will prevent the student from eligibility.

Here is a checklist of potential errors that will delay or deny a student's request for TA:

- Missing personal data in the education record including phone, date of separation, date of birth, unit, office symbol, mailing address, e-mail address and current duty phone.
- Missing education level
- Suspense dates that have expired. An incomplete grade must be completed by the date given.
- Missing grades 60 days or more from course end date.
- Requesting TA for courses that start more than 90 days into the future.
- Requesting TA for courses that have already started.

See TUITION, A10

National night out



Photo by Angela Elbern

Gabriel, 4, daughter of Master Sgt. John Poffenbarger, Pacific Air Forces, enjoys a slushy under a slight drizzle at the National night out Aug. 5. Find out more about the event on A3.

Future Total Force align with Pacific Air Forces mission

By Senior Airman Matthew Rosine
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO – As the Future Total Force initiative integrates with Air Force operations in the Pacific, the transition is looking good, said the Pacific Air Forces commander.

"The transformational pieces of our capabilities are clearly in the form of long-range bombers, the C-17 (Globemaster III), F/A-22 (Raptor) and Global Hawk to be stationed in the Pacific," said Gen. Paul V. Hester, who is also the air component commander for U.S. Pacific Command.

The Air Force plan to realign missions and organizations is outlined in the Future Total Force concept. The concept's aim is to strengthen the Air Force by creating synergy among active-duty, Guard and Reserve forces for more capable and efficient airpower.

The general called this transformation

"forward thinking" and emphasized the important role the C-17 would have throughout the theater once the transformation is complete at the end of this decade.

As part of the transition in the Pacific, eight C-17s are due to start arriving at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, in January. Following that move, eight more C-17s will arrive at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, in January 2007.

At Hickam, the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing will be in partnership with the 15th Airlift Wing throughout the transition. The experienced Guardsmen from the 154th, who often operate both military and commercial aircraft, will train and fly with their active-duty counterparts. Aircraft maintenance will also be a combined effort, using a wealth of knowledge and skills found within a

See PACAF, A4

Air Force selects three Hickam chiefs for command position list

By Senior Airman Sarah Kinsman
Kukini Editor

Air Force officials recently announced the results of the 2005 Command Chief Master Sergeant Candidate Board. The list included two of Team Hickam's own along with another who was on the list from the previous year.

Chief Master Sgts. Edy Agee, Pacific Air Forces Regional Supply Squadron, Michael Franklin, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and Kevin Soltis, 15th Mission Support Group, were the three from Team Hickam selected for

this list.

"The Air Force selected 85 chiefs from a pool of 230 to be CCM candidates," said Chief Soltis.

Those selected by the board remain on the list for two years and are eligible to compete for command chief positions with a reporting date of Oct. 1 and later, according to Air Force Print News.

The command chief job has many aspects to it. The CCC position has a "broad responsibility over issues impacting our quality of life," said Chief Master Sgt. Jim

See CHIEFS, A10

Honoring fallen heroes: Hickam’s commitment bleeds red, white, blue

By Col. Bill “Goose” Changose
15th Airlift Wing commander

There is a very significant and honorable mission that takes place here. Hickam is the place that our lost men and women from prior wars once again return to American soil.

We honor each arrival with dignity and grace. From the moment the aircraft opens its doors until the remains are placed on the ambulance for movement, the watchful eye of the honor guard, veterans and a team of total force military members ensures our fallen comrades are given the respect they so rightly deserve. No other nation in the world goes to these lengths.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command does “CSI” type work to put a name to remains so family members can lay their loved ones to rest. They are the best in the world at finding, retrieving, transporting and identifying American remains. As said by Douglas MacArthur, “The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.” JPAC helps heal those wounds.



(Left to right) Airman 1st Class Aron Virden, Senior Airman Nicholas Girton and Staff Sgt. Jamie Combs, 15th Security Forces Squadron, receive a few words of encouragement from Col. Bill “Goose” Changose, 15th Airlift Wing commander, prior to departing for a six-month deployment Sunday.

Today, there is one American still missing from the Gulf War, more than 1,800 from the Vietnam War, 120 from the Cold War, more than 8,100 from the Korean War, and more than 78,000 from World War II. I ask each of you to take a moment Aug. 19 to attend the repatriation ceremony in

front of Hickam’s Base Operations at 9 a.m. and remember these fallen heroes. Be proud to be an American and that the U.S. government, the Department of Defense and JPAC are committed to scientific excellence and the fullest possible accounting of all Americans still missing from

our nation’s conflicts. As usual Team Hickam’s Sky Warriors are doing great things every day. Mike Nakashima the director of the 15th Services Squadron Gymnastics Center, is proof of that. Mike runs a huge program, where 453 of our Hickam youth are actively enrolled in ongoing classes

and 230 are on the waiting list! This summer, during a period of two weeks when three instructors were called away or on leave, Mike implemented a nine-day summer day camp in order to give as many youth as possible a gymnastics experience. He’s gone above and beyond to provide a great

service to Team Hickam. Speaking of going above and beyond, last week’s 2nd annual car show and craft fair was an outstanding event? The 15th Services Squadron continues to provide exciting, fun-filled family events on base. I’d like to salute Donna Sommers, director, arts and craft center and her entire staff for making it a successful event. Check out the Kukini’s coverage on B1. Another success was the National night out coordinated by Hickam Community Housing Aug. 5. For the inaugural event more than 100 parents and children came out as part of a national effort to educate families and anyone else interested in preventing crime, fires and drug abuse. See A3 for more about the event. With all this talk of success and honor, I have to mention a top-notch group of people this week. These folks are the soon-to-be newest members of the non-commissioned officer’s corps. I want to personally congratulate all 114 staff sergeant selects, who now will take on greater responsibilities and continue their achievements to be the backbone of the world’s greatest Air Force.

American appreciation: Thank you for what you do

Petty Officer 1st Class Brandon Raile
Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Public Affairs office

“Thank you for what you do.” It’s a phrase I’ve heard countless times over the past few years, any time I’ve walked through a public place in uniform or picked up a conversation with a perfect stranger.

We live in a country today where Americans are genuinely appreciative of everyone serving in uniform. Knowing this, I always just smile and say thank you. But the truth is, I don’t look at what I do as anything special. To me, it’s simply a job, no different from the guy who fixes my car or the acne-faced

kid at the fast food drive thru trying to get me to add the two apple pies for a dollar.

What I think makes this job different, what makes being a part of the military service special, is the bond we have with everyone else in uniform. I doubt the drive thru kid has ever had to trust his life to the guy making the french fries, but we have to put that kind of faith in each other on a daily basis. As a result of this mutual trust and reliance, we become a part of something bigger than ourselves; we become a part of a family.

Like any family, we are not limited to the current generation. Our family not only includes those who

serve today, but all of those who came before us. And also like any family, the well being and success of the current generation is due in large part to the sacrifices and efforts of those who came before us.

There is no question in my mind that we who serve today have things much better than any previous generation of our “family.” Our equipment is better and offers levels of comfort and protection previously unimagined. Our weapons are more reliable and more accurate. Casualties in our current conflict are proportionately less than at any time in our history. And most importantly, the support and respect we receive from the American people

is rivaled only by that given to the “Greatest Generation,” the veterans of World War II.

With everything that preceding generations of our “family” have given us as a result of their unwavering perseverance and all too often their blood, it seems only right that we, as the beneficiaries of the reward they earned for us, should endeavor to honor them and their sacrifices. The best way for us to do this is with a firm commitment to ensure that every single one of them receives the honor they so deservedly earned.

As the climate of our country has changed in recent years, veterans from all conflicts have been endowed by the American

people with the full respect that they have earned, with one tragic exception... those who fell on the field of battle never to return home to receive that honor.

Regardless of how appreciative the public may be or how they may view my service in the armed forces through peace and war time, it is still to me “just a job.” Being deployed for eight months at a time or sitting on a beach in Iraq with a weapon is just what I have to do. There is nothing about it that makes me feel deserving of the attention the public would like to shower us with. What does mean something to me is that now, as a member of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, I

have the opportunity to honor those who came before me. I am lucky enough to be a part of a team made up of the best men and women from every branch of the U.S. military, with the mission of searching out those who fell and did not return home and bringing them home, so that they too will receive the honor they have earned.

Although I am sure that all of those who came before me did not view what they did as anything special or anything other than doing their jobs, I am very grateful to have the opportunity through this mission to show my respect for them and to be able to say, “Thank you for what you did.”

Action Line

The purpose of the Action Line is in its name. It’s your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. It also allows you to recognize individuals who go above and beyond in their duties – and we all know there are plenty of those folks here. All members of Team Hickam are welcome to use

the Action Line; however, I urge you to give the normal chain of command the first chance at resolving problems or issues. It’s only fair to give our commanders and managers the first opportunity to work issues under their responsibility. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander’s Action Line a call. If you

would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I’ll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.

Hickam Diamond Tips



Body Jewelry: Off Duty on a military installation

Members are prohibited from attaching, affixing or displaying objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the ear, nose, tongue or any exposed body part (includes visible through clothing). Piercing of earlobes by women is allowed, but should not be extreme or excessive. The type and style of earrings worn by women on a military installation should be conservative and kept within sensible limits.

(Source: AFI 36-2903)
Questions? Contact your First Sergeant.

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Joe NovotnyTechnical Adviser

Deadline for copy is noon Thursday for the following Friday’s issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300 - 500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

Crisis Response lines

Hickam Family Support Center
449-0300
Life Skills Support Center
449-0175
Law Enforcement Desk
449-6373
Base Chaplain
449-1754
Military Family Abuse Shelter
533-7125
SARC Hotline
449-7272

Hickam Voices

(Deployed Edition)

What will you take from your experience here (deployed location Southwest Asia)?



I have seen the good life of no cooking, no cleaning, no dishes, no laundry, and no yard work. I have learned mutual organization – how to make a 10 x 10 cell with bunk beds into a bedroom for two comfortable; time management - how to be in the shower and on time for work when sharing 5 showers with more than 60 women.
Tech. Sgt. Cheri Palmer
15th Services Squadron



I would have learned the art of true communication as well as listening effectively to the concerns of the people I serve.
Staff Sgt. Lorraine Banks
15th Services Squadron



The challenges faced as a Force Protection Escort Flight Element NCOIC have shaped me into a well rounded NCO by improving aspects of my leadership and supervisory skills. I will take the experience of managing 39 personnel from 20-plus different AFSCs and apply it to my future NCO roles.
Staff Sgt. Robert Lysinger
15th Operations Support Squadron



That you receive support when you least expect it, and that we live in a country where you can realize your dreams.
Staff Sgt. Gene Nolen
15th Civil Engineer Squadron



I will take the experiences that I have gained out here and use them back at my home base to help better my career.
Staff Sgt. Darryll Stewart
15th Services Squadron



I will look back on the bond that is developed between our fellow Airman and various cultures. I have come to the realization that the old saying that “absence makes the heart grow fonder” actually holds truth and value.
Senior Airman “Jenn” Kincaid
15th Airlift Wing



I will never take for granted the freedoms America has granted every one of her citizens.
Senior Airman Samuel McNally
15 Medical Support Squadron

Next week’s question:
What career field do you think is the most underappreciated?

To respond to this question, send an email to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil with a response and phone number to contact you.



Airman 1st Class Chris Ruiz suits up Daniel Day, 8, who strikes a power pose in a protective suit. Photos by Angela Elbern

Night Out brings education, peace of mind to Hickam

Ryan Mielke
Deputy Asset Manager
Hickam Community Housing

At one point or another, every parent may wonder how they will equip their children with the information and tools needed to live in a safe environment, free of crime. More than 100 Hickam members and children are a bit more prepared, thanks to the recent National Night Out event in Hickam Community Housing’s Earhart Village.

The event, part of a national effort to educate families and anyone else interested in preventing crime, fires and drug abuse, was the first such event at Hickam. “While this was our first one, we plan on having these each year,” said Faye Tukes, a Hickam Community Housing community manager. “I think this was a show of commitment by our Hickam families and base officials toward bettering our quality of life. People enjoy taking their kids to events like this that are not more than a short walk from the very communities they are trying to keep safe.”

Hickam Community Housing invited residents from throughout the installation to take part in the event that showcased Hickam and Honolulu fire and police officials, including:

- Hickam Fire Department
- Hickam Security Forces Squadron
- Honolulu Police Department-Keiki identification kits

Hickam families who attended the event lauded fire and police presentations. “They showed great support in the situations we encounter in our day to day activities,” said Tech. Sgt. Todd Johnson, Defense Information Systems Agency, who brought his family to National Night Out. “The time they took from their jobs provided a positive reinforcement that

they are here to protect our resources. You could tell how excited the kids were to be able to maneuver through their vehicles, knowing what it feels like to be a part of their exciting jobs. My children enjoyed all the activities so much they they didn’t even notice the rain falling.”

When not trying on firefighting gear or talking with 15th Security Forces Squadron professionals, many of the children at the event took advantage of large bounce houses, ate cotton candy or cooled off with shave ice. All of Hickam Community Housing’s property management staff and management attended the event, along with some rather famous canine crime fighters.

“Our Security Forces brought out their K-9 dogs, and the families really liked the Keiki Id program, meeting McGruff, and learning how to stop, drop and roll with the fire department,” said Brenna Poffenbarger, another Hickam resident and a Hickam Community Housing community manager.

This was Hickam Community Housing’s first National Night Out and next year’s event will include more local fire and police participation and demonstrations. “We noticed that the families really liked the interactive part of the event this year, so next year will include more demonstrations that give our residents firsthand experience working with our police and firefighters,” added Ms. Tukes. “This was really something special for our Hickam families. I am really happy we could bring this here.”

The purpose of National Night Out is to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

Last year’s National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement



Tech. Sgt. Guy Dashnea holds a secure package of a controlled substance to allow Daniel Day, 8, son of Tech. Sgt. Aron Day, a sniff so that he can be aware of the drug if someone tries to offer it to him.

agencies, businesses, civic groups, and neighborhood organizations from over 10,000 communities from all 50 States, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide. More than 34 million people participated in 2004.

For more information about National Night Out, call Brenna Poffenbarger or Faye Tukes 423-2300 or logon to www.NationalNightOut.org.

Bagram runway reopens after C-17 incident

By Capt. Mark Gibson
455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – AFPN – A C-17 Globemaster III rolled off the runway while landing here Aug. 6, damaging its nose and right main landing gears.

As a result, the runway was closed, but quick action and creative thinking by Air Force and Army engineers had the runway fully active again in less than 30 hours.

There were no injuries in the incident. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

When the C-17 came to rest, one of it’s wings extended over the active runway, so the aircraft had to be moved. However, air operations continued while the C-17 was moved off the active runway.

The C-17 measures 174 feet long with a wingspan of 169 feet. It is operated by a crew of three and can carry up to 170,000 pounds of cargo.

Aircraft from here diverted to other airfields and were able to continue combat missions supporting ground forces. Coalition air forces also assisted in ensuring constant airpower was maintained over

the battlefield during aircraft recovery operations.

Nevertheless, moving the aircraft proved to be a complicated process, said Col. Donald Jones, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander, who directed the effort.

“It took one big team to brainstorm and come up with the tools and methods we needed,” he said.

The hardest part of the process, he said, was determining a way to lift the nose of the aircraft without further damaging it.

First the fuel and cargo

needed to be removed. The team removed 105,000 pounds of fuel and unloaded 55,000 pounds of cargo, with the remaining gross weight of the aircraft estimated at 300,000 pounds. Because of the tilt of the aircraft, the cargo could not be removed by fork-lift through the cargo door. The cargo pallets had to be broken down into individual boxes, pieces and parts were removed through the crew door.

Next the team had to replace the C-17’s unusable landing gear. Their solution was a flatbed trailer, crane and

railroad ties.

The aircraft was lifted with the crane, inches at a time, and wood was placed under the nose to support it. The team backed the flatbed tractor trailer under the nose and removed the wood. Straps were tied to the trailer and passed through the pilot’s windows and open doors to secure the aircraft onto the truck.

The team assembled metal airfield matting provided by Army engineers to roll the aircraft onto the runway. The Army engineers also provided two bulldozers and the flatbed to drag the aircraft back onto

the runway to a parking ramp.

“Once again, we had great cooperation between the Air Force and Army here,” said Army Col. Michael Flanagan, 18th Engineer Brigade and Task Force Sword commander. “We worked together as a team to get a job done in one night that many people thought would take four days. This is the best cooperative effort between the Air Force and Army that I have seen in my 26-year career.”

Colonel Jones, knowing the priority was getting the run-

Commissary serves up something different on ice

By Christina Failma
Staff Writer

Sky Warriors, ranging from the young to the young at heart patiently stood at the commissary entranceway holding newspapers, pictures and even old ice skates Monday. It wasn't a new way to shop in the frozen food section, it was a chance to meet an Olympic gold medalist figure skater.

These fans eagerly waited in line for their glimpse of world figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi.

Ms. Yamaguchi won World Championship titles in 1991 and 1992 along with a gold medal at the 1992 Olympics. One fan who had just started pre-

school during the skater's first championship, brought along her blades for signing.

"I skated for 10 years. I want to retire my old skates the right way and have Kristi sign them," 18 year-old Whitney Watts said excitedly. "You were my idol growing up," Ms. Watts exclaimed as she handed Kristi her skates to sign.

The Olympic champion signed autographs and posed for pictures with fans for three hours at the Hickam Commissary. She even signed the occasional shoyu bottle.

Recently, Aloha Shoyu became a corporate sponsor of the Always a Dream foundation and is bringing Ms. Yamaguchi here to visit

various commissaries here on Oahu. The skating pro created the Always Dream Foundation in 1996.

"It's basically a foundation where we like to embrace the hopes and dreams of children by giving them as much opportunity as possible. I was very fortunate since I had a lot of people supporting me. I want to be there to support other kids as well," Ms. Yamaguchi said of her foundation.

"All my fans are very enthusiastic. My fans, especially in Hawaii, are loyal and generous," Kristi said. "I don't have any family in the military right now, but my dad was a dentist for the Air Force before he retired."



Photo by Christina Failma
Kristi Yamaguchi signs autographs for waiting fans, Monday at the Hickam commissary.

AIRMEN, From A1

Steven Bond
Kevin Cenance
Jason Choi
Ivan Cosme
Daniel Cruz
Scott Eversole
Xavier Fairley
Roel Garza
Christopher Jackson
Ralph Keller
Song Lee
Michael Logie
Jeffery Miller
Waylon Nihipali
Heather Rinus
Virginio Rivera
Mitchell Soileau
Aaron Stern
Kelvin Tyler

15th Communications Squadron

Jamie Belew
Fernando Berdoza
Jessica Bissell
Joshua Buckwalter
Lori Cantu
Russell Delmedico
Ana Essex
Mathew Forster
Keith Hopson
James Hudson
Derrick Martinez
Jesse Mortensen
Raymond Oliande
Daniel Raynes
Anthony Renner
Aaron Samora

Michael Tengco
Jamie Willemin
Travis Winstead

15th Contracting Squadron

Daniel Chang
Stella Schoenberg

15th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Nathan Borchardt

15th Medical Operations Squadron

Lejoyce Harvey
Monique McCall
Jason Smith

15th Medical Support Squadron

Amanda Bush
Monica Lampano
Johndale Lilly
Shannon Stokes

15th Mission Support Squadron

Kimberly Davis

15th Operations Support Squadron

Kory Benedetti
Brandon Benton
Bryan Masters
Sammy Rogers



15th Security Forces Squadron

William Abel
Thomas Adams
Todd Barlow
Bronson Brown
Luanne Bruggeman
Michael Burks
Stephen Butler
Keri Embry

Joseph Fairall
Elias Guereca
Brian Halbasch
Guadalupe Higadera
Derek Jennings
Brian Linek
Shaun Miller
Joseph Osborne
Jae Paulsen
Tanya Perez
Matthew Phillips
Elizabeth Stolz
Alejandro Velez

15th Services Squadron

Aaron Douglas
Walkidia Fradera
Clarissa Gomez
Bruce Nicaise
Sean Winner

Det. 1, 15th Mission Support Group

Robert Boehler
Jeffery Espensen
Aleesha Gilmore
Charles Humphrey
Erik Mina
Elliot Reid
Johnny Rivera

25th Air Support Operations Squadron

George Carper
Daniel Ferguson
June Green
Maximo Mendoza

Michael Oser
Scott Stafford

65th Airlift Squadron

Jenny Fritcher
Loretta Smith

Members who tested were able to view their score notice on the virtual military personnel flight Thursday. Score notices allow Airmen to see how their Promotion Fitness Examination and Specialty Knowledge Test scores rank against those they're directly competing with for promotion within their Air Force Specialty Code.

The average score for those selected was 269.19 points, with the following averages:

- 131.21 points for enlisted performance reports
- 57.54 for promotion fitness exam
- 52.79 for specialty knowledge test
- 17.32 for time in grade
- 11.12 for time in service
- 0.80 for decorations

The average selectee has 1.92 years time in grade and 4.52 years in service. Those selected will be promoted to staff sergeant from September 2005 to August 2006.

PACAF, From A1

Guard cadre of seasoned maintainers.

At Elmendorf, the Air Force Reserve will be partnered with the active-duty 3rd Wing during the C-17 transition. Airmen from each service component will train and fly together.

Future Total Force initiatives have already been succeeding at other Air Force installations. Active-duty maintainers from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., are currently being trained by the experienced Airmen of the Vermont Air National Guard

General Hester said the timing of the Future Total Force initiative in PACAF is in step with the direction of today's military.

"As we shape and downsize our services to match our Future Total Force, which means fewer airplanes, we will focus on the capabilities needed to produce the desired combat effects for our combatant commander," he said.

Summer reading program breaths fire into base youth

More than 2,200 books read by young Sky Warriors

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 90 parents and children converged on the Hickam library’s yard Saturday during the annual summer reading program finale event.

The library had more than 150 Hickam youth enroll into the summer program that was entitled “Catch a Dragon by the Tale.” Which according to the some was a tough task in itself.

“The theme for 2003 was ‘Take Flight, Read’ emphasizing not just planes but things that fly. 2004’s theme was an undersea theme: “Explore new worlds, Read,” said Phyllis Frenzel, CIV Director Hickam Base Library. “All of us can relate to planes because we work for the Air Force, and in Hawaii we are surrounded by water, so the flight and fish themes were easy to pull off.

“Promoting the dragon theme was a little less intuitive in the sense that dragons are less tangible than fish and airplanes are because most Westerners view them as fantasy,” she said.

According to a History Channel episode on dragons, every culture and religion has a written history of dragons. They interfered with armies and ships and preyed on young women of child-bearing



Courtesy photo

Kristianna, 4, and Kylie, 2, Muller, show off their reading certificates with mom, Kathryn. Kristianna (left) read 118 books and Kylie 114 books as part of the summer reading program entitled “Catch a Dragon by the Tale.” Their father is Maj. Bruce Muller, Chief of Policy and Procedures for Pacific Air Forces Weather Division.

age. When people believed that the world was flat, few ventured beyond the known world because they were told that they would fall off the edge and be devoured by large monsters.

“I have seen old-world maps with dragons depicted on the edge of the earth,” the librarian said. “In that sense, dragons could represent our fear of change, fear of progress or fear of the future. Reading is the means by which we educate ourselves and prepare for the future, thus conquering our own personal dragons.”

Conquering those drag-

ons were three divisions: I. Preschool to 2nd Grade. II. Grades 3-6, III. Grades 7-9. All the children who turned in reading logs received a dragon medal, dragon-master certificate and goody bag filled with things like bubbles, cards, earth erasers, marbleized bouncing balls, key chains, bookmarks and stickers, embroidered dragon patches. Refreshments, dragon bags, medals and magnetic dragon pins were purchased by the Hickam Friends of the Library with proceeds from their bi-quarterly used book sales. Nine children who read more than 100 books

received embroidered dragon patches.

Top readers in each category received books about dragons as prizes. Parents of 100 book readers received dragon medals as well as their children.

“Reading empowers us, develops our imaginations and creativity,” said Ms. Frenzel. “By reading fiction, we can often learn about science, geography, and history by osmosis. Even if the facts are not totally accurate, reading can motivate us to do more in-depth research on a topic. Children who are avid readers tend to do better in school and perform better on achievement tests. Reading is important, because it enables us to teach ourselves anything we want to learn.”

Top readers this summer were:

Category I

Lucas Dorschel, 178 Books
Michael Dorschel,178 Books

Category II

Jina Yi, 169 Books

Category III

Alyssa Day, 20 Books
Emilie Evans, 20 Books

Other 100 book readers were :

- Teddy Hamacher, 147 Books
- Grace Hamacher, 145 Books
- Ava Mendoza, 132 Books
- Elise Mendoza, 126 Books
- Kristianna Muller, 118 Books
- Kylie Muller, 114 Books



Damage to private property

An active-duty Air Force member notified security forces about his privately-owned vehicle being damaged.

Theft of private property

An active-duty Army member notified security forces about his property being stolen at the Hickam Marina.

Unlawful entry

An active-duty Air Force member notified security forces about someone unlawfully entering his residence. A search for missing items was conducted with security forces. The owner claimed nothing was missing.

Damage to private property

An active-duty Air Force member notified security forces about his privately-owned vehicle being damaged while parked at the auto-resale lot. Estimated damage: \$700.

Shoplifting

A military family member was detained by Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives for shoplifting. Total cost of stolen merchandise: \$1424.42

Damage to government property

A military family member notified security forces about a vehicle reversing into a cement trash container outside the fitness center. Estimated damage: \$1000.

Theft of private property

An active-duty Air Force member notified security forces about his personal property being stolen from his residence.

Hit and run

An active duty Air Force member notified Security Forces about his vehicle being involved in a hit and run accident.

Damage to private property

A military family member notified security forces about her outdoor furniture being damaged in base housing.

Minor vehicle accident

A privately-owned vehicle drove into the rear of another privately-owned vehicle in the Hickam AMC Terminal parking lot.

Theft of private property

An active-duty Air Force member notified security forces about his vehicle license plates being stolen while parked at the auto-resale lot.

Theft of private property

An active duty Air Force member notified security forces about his vehicle repair tools being stolen from his residence.

Officials create deployment health, readiness library

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AFPN) – Servicemembers, their families and their health-care providers have a new online Defense Department resource for deployment health issues.

The DOD’s Deployment Health Risk Communication Working Group and the Joint Task Force for Family Readiness Education on Deployments have joined together to create the Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library.

Ellen Embrey, deputy assistant secretary of defense for force health protection and readiness, announced the new online library Aug. 9. It is intended to provide servicemembers, families and health-care providers a quick and easy way to find information about deployment health and family readiness.

“Information is a powerful tool. We must remain proactive in providing deployment-related health information to better safeguard our servicemembers,” she said. “Most people fear the unknown. Through accurate, timely information we are able to ensure that our servicemembers are better equipped to prepare for, cope with, and recover from the myriad health risks faced during deployments.”

The online library includes fact sheets, guides and other products on a wide variety of health topics. The topic listing was based on feedback from servicemembers, their families and health-care providers, Ms. Embrey said. Information will be added to the site as new topics and areas of concern emerge, she added.

In focus-group meetings, servicemembers and their families have said their need for information varies before, during and after deployments, Ms. Embrey said. Leaders, in particular, look for accurate information before the deployment. While servicemembers are deployed, their families are especially interested in getting deployment health-related information, and following deployments, both servicemembers and families look for this information, she said.

Many information sources are available online, but Ms. Embrey said that too often it is difficult to tell if the information source is accurate.

“We want this site to be the authoritative source for deployment health and family readiness information,” Ms. Embrey said. “This is another step we are taking to ensure that those who protect our country and our freedoms are also protected.”



Loading up
Airman 1st Class Aron Virden, 15th Security Forces Squadron, passes a bag to Staff Sgt. Roberto Abcede, 15th SFS, Sunday night as a six-man SFS team departs for United Arab Emirates on a six-month deployment.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard

TRICARE Prime adds provider flexibility

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

The Point-of-Service option of TRICARE Prime and Prime Remote plans adds a measure of flexibility for active duty family members, but this flexibility comes at an additional cost.

Simply put, POS allows Prime and Prime Remote beneficiaries to choose to receive TRICARE-covered non-emergency services outside of the TRICARE Prime network of providers without a referral from their Primary Care Manager or an authorization from TriWest Healthcare Alliance by paying an additional deductible and cost-share.

Typically, the POS option is used for a one-time visit to a non-network provider without a pre-authorization.

POS cost-sharing applies for those beneficiaries who

receive urgent or specialty care without either a referral from their PCM or an authorization from TriWest; when they receive routine care while traveling; or when electing to have prescriptions filled at a non-network civilian pharmacy.

Using the POS option results in higher out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries. When using the POS option, TRICARE Prime and TPR beneficiaries are responsible for an annual deductible (for outpatient care) of \$300 for an individual and \$600 for a family. After the deductible is satisfied, the cost-share is 50 percent of the TRICARE allowable charge.

The cost-share applies to both inpatient and outpatient services. Any additional charges by non-network providers also become the beneficiary’s responsibility: up to 15 percent above the

allowable charge, as permitted by law. Deductibles and POS cost-sharing may also apply to services received from a TRICARE Prime network provider if the care is not pre-authorized.

For example, if a beneficiary’s annual deductible has been met and the visit costs and the TRICARE allowable charge is \$500, the beneficiary must pay the 50% percent of the remaining POS charge, or \$250.

Additionally, POS costs are NOT applied towards the annual catastrophic cap. So, using this option can be very expensive.

Beneficiaries should make every effort to avoid expensive POS charges by contacting their PCM for a referral before seeking care. TriWest will notify both the provider and the beneficiary when authorization is given.

The POS option does not

apply to emergency situations. Beneficiaries in an emergency situation should immediately go or be taken to the nearest emergency care facility.

The POS option also does not apply to TRICARE Standard beneficiaries. Active duty service members are also not eligible to use the POS option. Active duty service members who visit a civilian provider without a referral from their military treatment facility or the Military Medical Support Office, Great Lakes Illinois, will be denied payment of claims. In those cases, the ADSM will be required to pay all costs and will not be reimbursed by the government.

More information on POS and other TRICARE benefit information can be found at www.tricare.osd.mil or www.triwest.com.



Editor's Note: To read the complete stories and find more Air Force news, go to www.af.mil.

EOD Airmen rely on high-tech, raw nerves

ALI BASE, Iraq (AFPN) – Soldiers of the 56th Brigade Combat Team encounter explosive situations daily as they travel along Iraq's highways during convoy escort missions. But things hit closer to home when the Texas Army National Guardsmen found a suspicious package in a trailer near their headquarters recently.

Security forces Airmen with the 407th Air Expeditionary Group and Soldiers of the 56th BCT quickly evacuated everyone and cordoned off the area around the package.

Within minutes, explosive ordnance disposal Airmen arrived along with two of their bomb disposal robots. EOD Airmen are specially trained to deal with a variety of explosive devices. The teams quickly deployed their space-age-looking vehicles to the area where the package was found.

Senior Airman Cameron Champion, a reservist from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., assigned to the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, gingerly maneuvered a robot tethered by a thin fiber optic cable through a maze of concrete barriers and military vehicles in the parking lot to remove the package.

Airman Champion recovered the package and relocated it to a safe area adjacent to an 18-inch thick reinforced concrete blast wall designed to

Rescue me



Photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan – Tech. Sgt. Dawn Ryan is hoisted by a Navy HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk during water mass casualty training. The exercise provides the opportunity for Airmen and Sailors to work together in a maritime environment. Sergeant Ryan is assigned to the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron here.

protect people from the blast of an artillery rocket or mortar round.

The suspicious package turned out to be nothing but a foreign military field ration that had been left unattended. Despite the ordeal, everyone agreed that acting on the side of caution was the best judgment call.

The team regularly receives suspicious package calls and treats everyone of them as the real thing, said Master Sgt. Thomas Carroll, EOD team chief who is deployed from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

“We can't afford to make any second guesses because it may cause someone to lose

their life,” Sergeant Carroll said. *(Story By Army Master Sgt. Lek Mateo 56th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)*

‘Freedom Walk’ commemorates 9/11, celebrates freedom

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Defense Department officials announced Aug. 9 the first “America Supports You” Freedom Walk to honor the victims of Sept. 11, 2001, and America's servicemembers, as well as to celebrate freedom.

The Freedom Walk will

crashed into the Pentagon. The walk route will consist of a two-mile trek through Arlington National Cemetery, over the Potomac River, and will end by the reflecting pool on the National Mall. “Every year since the Sept. 11 attacks, Americans have commemorated that anniversary,” said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. “This year the Department of Defense will initiate an ‘American Supports You’ Freedom Walk. The walk will begin at the Pentagon and end at the National Mall. It will include many of the major monuments in Washington, D.C., reminding participants of the sacrifices of this generation and of each previous generation that have so successfully defended our freedoms.”

(Story by Steven Donald Smith, American Forces Press Service)

Kadena Airmen rescue stranded surfer

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan (AFPN) – A day of surfing in Okinawa could have

turned deadly for a Marine Corps family member the evening of Aug. 5 had it not been for the quick efforts of Airmen here.

An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crew jumped into action after the Japanese coast guard asked Kadena's 18th Wing for assistance in finding a 19-year-old American gone missing while surfing at a local beach.

The man, a victim of the rip-tide, was reported missing at 7:15 p.m. But as the sky darkened, the coast guard was forced to call off its search because of low visibility, leaving the fate of the young man in the hands of six Airmen from the 33rd and 31st Rescue Squadrons.

“Nighttime is one of our specialties in the combat rescue business,” said Lt. Col. Gary Henderson, 33rd RQS commander. “We have additional equipment and do a lot of training at night to have that kind of capability.”

After spending nearly four hours in the water, the 19-year-old was safe and on his way to a medical facility for examination.



See the world with ITT!

Want to get out there and see the world? There’s no better way to do it than with Hickam Air Force Base Information, Tickets and Travel. The ITT office will handle all the details, right down to getting you to the airport on time, allowing you to experience the most relaxing, enjoyable vacation of a lifetime! Check out these exciting tours offered today: Alaska Cruise (cruise only - Sept. 16 - 25), Southeast Asia Tour, Oct. 16 - 29, New Zealand, Nov. 12-20, and Hong Kong, Dec. 4-12. Don’t spend another year just thinking about that dream vacation ... pick up the phone and call 449-2230 to make it a reality.

Volunteer youth coaches needed

Youth Sports has a need for youth softball and baseball coaches for programs in

all age categories. “Volunteers are critical to the success of these programs,” said Master Sgt. Ricky Woods, NCOIC of Fitness & Sports Center operations. Interested volunteers should contact B.J. Bentley at the Youth Sports Office at 448-4492 or 448-6611.



Stars & Strikes promotion at Hickam Bowling Center

Time is running out to get in on this sizzling promotion! Monday is the last day to enter to win tons of great prizes, including the \$500 grand prize to be named on Tuesday. Just bowl a game or purchase a large Coke

and receive a stamp card. Call the Bowling Center at 449-2702 for full details.

Artist and Craftsman contest

Now is the time to start working on the Artist/Craftsman Contest entries for 2005. There are four categories this year: Fine Arts, Industrial Arts, Textile Arts and Picture Arts. Entries are accepted from all youth and adults starting Sept. 9. For details, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 449-1568.

Hike Ka’ena Point!

Check out Oahu’s most western point up close and personal with Hickam Outdoor Recreation. The 5.5 mile hike to Ka’ena Point will be both exhilarating and educational. The \$20 cost includes two experienced guides as well as transportation. The bus departs Hickam Harbor office at 9 a.m. and returns at 3 p.m. It is recommended that participants bring the following items: Hiking shoes, sack lunch, hat, swimsuit, sun block and

water. Call 449-5215 for details.



Wednesday night special at Hickam Bowling Center

Bowl every Wednesday in August for just \$1 per game from 4 to 9 p.m. Take advantage of this great deal while it lasts. And don’t forget, the Hickam Bowling Center is a great place to plan a fun-filled party of any type (going away, retirement, birthday, anniversary and more!) Parties of 15 or more are welcome.

Catering is available for your function. Call the Center at 449-2702 for reservations.

Champagne Sunday Brunch at Officers’ Club

Visit the Officers’ Club every Sunday for a sumptuous Sunday Brunch Buffet, located in the Dining Room and Koa Lounge. The extensive menu features culinary delights such as roast beef, fresh seasonal fruits and salads, Belgian waffles and much, much more. And don’t forget to complete your Sunday feast at the Dessert Bar, featuring delicious cakes, pies and pastries. Cost is \$18.95 per adult (\$4 Member’s First discount). Children 7-11 - \$5.95; children 4-6 - \$3.75; children 3 years and under eat free. Reservations required. Contact the O’Club at 448-4608 for more details.

Hickam Enlisted Club membership night

Members eat free on Membership Night. Spouse or one eligible guest is \$5.95. Come join in on the party at the Enlisted Club, Wednesday from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Dine on wonderfully prepared Polynesian Buffet while enjoying lively

Hawaiian music. Door prizes will be raffled off to add to the excitement. Tickets are available at the Customer Service Center and must be picked up by Tuesday. There is limited seating, it’s first come, first served, so get your tickets now! Contact the Enlisted Club at 449-1292 for details.

Karaoke night

Take the stage twice a week at the Enlisted Club. Karaoke night is every Thursday, 7 p.m. - closing and every Friday, 4:30 - 7 p.m. Come out and show us what you have.

Seafood buffet at Sea Breeze

Bring the family and friends to enjoy casual family dining overlooking beautiful Hickam Beach. Satisfy an appetite with delicious Seafood Buffet, a variety of salads and sumptuous desserts, every Sunday evening from 6 - 8 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Cost is \$21.95 per person. Call 449-9900 for details.

See SERVICES, A9

SERVICES, From A8



Register now for fall sports!

Registration for flag football and cheerleading will be held at Kidsports through today. All participants will need to bring a birth certificate and current physical exam papers. Cost for flag football is \$50 per child. Cheerleading cost is \$65 (\$30 if participant already has a cheerleading uniform). Call 448-6611 for details.

Pool Tournament

Think you have what it takes to be the best at Hickam? Show your stick skills at the Community Center Saturday, at noon for their double elimination Pool Tournament. This competition is open to all active duty, DOD and

retirees. Contact the Community Center at 449-2361 for more details.

Hickam Youth Programs’ “Summer Bash”

End this summer with a bang. Munch on some delicious pizza and take in a movie at Pearlridge Shopping Center, Tuesday. Then celebrate Summer’s end at Bellows Beach for a beach bash, where you’ll relax on the sand, play putt-putt golf and have a barbeque, Aug 18.

Bring swimsuit, water, change of clothes, camera and sun block.

Cost is \$50 (and includes lunch). Field trips open to pre-teens (ages 10 - 12). Contact 449-2233 for details.

Attention Teens ages 13 - 18. Don’t miss out on the end of summer fun! Go back to school shopping at Kahala Mall, Monday. Say “Aloha” to all your summer pals and stay cool at the Ice Palace, Wednesday. Cost is \$15. Participants are asked to bring money for food and back to school supplies.

PACAF Pentathlon is your chance to win!

“Venture 2 Victory” by playing the 2005 PACAF Pentathlon. This year is better than ever with over \$30,000 in prizes, including trips to Las Vegas (Hawaii for non-Hawaii residents), cash prizes and a brand new Harley Davidson Sportster. You can only get game pieces from a Services activity, so venture to www.pacfive.com or www.hickamservices.com for a complete listing of ways you can earn a chance to win.

Register between August today and Monday and you’ll be entered to win a \$500 shopping spree from AAFES (only authorized AAFES customers are eligible to win). The game has already started, so what are you waiting for? Go log on and win!



ACC video raises suicide awareness for Air Force

By Airman 1st Class Kiley Olds
7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – Creators of a video filmed here are hoping it will educate, prevent and lower the risk of suicides across Air Combat Command as well as the rest of the Air Force.

“Air Combat Command Off-Duty Survivor Stories: Suicide Choices; Terminal Consequences,” is the second in a series of videos by the 436th Training Squadron’s multimedia flight highlighting key Air Force issues. The video was released Aug. 10.

“The common theme (of the series) is Airmen talking about their experiences and what they went through in order to help save another’s life,” said Senior Master Sgt. James Jarvis, 436th TS multimedia flight superintendent and director of the video.

The video, filmed here with Dyess Airmen filling various roles, tells the story of Airman Basic Justin Dundee, a fic-

tional Airman whose life has taken a turn for the worse after receiving an Article 15 for underage drinking and writing dishonorable checks at the base exchange.

“It felt like my life was falling apart, and I had screwed everything up,” Airman Dundee said during the video. “One by one, everything that I cared about seemed to be disappearing: my girlfriend, my career, my friends and most importantly my self-respect. I didn’t care what happened to me anymore, and I didn’t believe anyone else did either.”

Not caring what happens to him, the video shows how Airman Dundee applies a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

In his Oct. 21, 2004, sight picture, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper said that 57 people were lost to suicides the previous year. He called the losses a dramatic and tragic increase from the year before.

Because Air Force suicides are rising, Sergeant Jarvis said

he wanted to address the problem by creating something different than what was already available on the subject.

“The goal of the film is to bring an awareness of the problem of suicide and deliver a message to motivate others to be good wingmen,” Sergeant Jarvis said. “This will help give Airmen the tools they need to help their fellow Airmen from taking a permanent solution to a temporary problem.”

To order either production, Airmen can visit <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil/davis/> or submit a fax request to DSN 795-6106.

When sending a fax, Airmen must include the production’s PIN number, title of requested production, choice of DVD or VHS and number of required copies. The PIN number for “Suicide Choices” is 614503.

Copies of the productions are free when mailed to an official military address and should be received within two to three weeks.

NOTES, From A1

Newcomb at 448-2115 or Airman 1st Class Darin Stout at 449-5916 or via email in the global.

Restoration advisory board meeting announcement – The Central Oahu Restoration Advisory Board will conduct a two-hour public meeting Aug. 25, beginning at 7 p.m. at Leeward Community College, Room BE105, located at 96-045 Ala Ike Street, in Pearl City.

The public is invited to attend. Information will be provided about ongoing environmental cleanup activities on Central Oahu.

The draft groundwater monitoring report, which is currently available for public comment, will also be discussed.

Contact Christine Clements at 449-1584 ext. 229, or by e-mail at christine.clements@hickam.af.mil for questions.

FY06 NCO Retraining Program – Air Force officials have announced the start of

the Fiscal Year 2006 NCO retraining program. The FY06 NCORP will target approximately 1,100 NCOs (staff sgt., tech. sgt., master sgt., and senior master sgt.) to retrain from AFSCs with NCO overages to AFSCs with NCO shortages. The voluntary phase of the program runs through Oct. 14. If necessary, an involuntary phase will begin shortly afterward. Some restrictions apply, depending on grade and AFSC.

Members can also log onto the vMPF at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enl-skills/Retraining/retraining.htm> to see if they are eligible to retrain and to check the retraining in/out quotas for each grade. A complete listing of available AFSCs is posted on the vMPF Web site.

Retraining Interviews are conducted at the MPF by appointment. Contact the MPF at 449-0671 for complete program details, a listing of available retraining AFSCs, and to set-up interview appointments

Team Hickam poker motorcycle ride – A Team Hickam poker ride will be held Aug. 30, starting at Fosters Point. Ride starts at 7:30 a.m. with the last bike out at 8:30 a.m. Last bike will return by 2 p.m. Winning hand wins two nights at Bellows Air Station.

Lunch will be served after the ride. Cost for the ride is \$10. See any 15th Airlift Wing First Sergeant by Aug. 26, or stop by the 15th AW safety office to sign up. Sign ups also available on ride day.

All Motorcycle Personal Protective Equipment must be worn.

Joint Spouses' Conference -The All Services and rank 2005 Joint Spouses' Conference is Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Schofield Barracks Banquet & Conference Center.

Registration runs Monday through Sept. 16. For more info and registration form go to: www.jointspousesconference.com

TUITION, From A1

- Requesting TA for lower level courses, which are less than highest education level awarded unless it is a prerequisite for masters.
- Requesting TA for duplicate courses - even those that have been repaid, the student must visit the education center.
- Not having an education goal or plan on file with the BTES.

If students are getting a degree from a civilian college or university, a goal or degree plan must be on file with the BTES office before TA will be approved. Students can e-mail BTES at 15MSS.DPE@Hickam.af.mil with their degree plan as an attachment and they'll upload it into their education record.

If any of the items listed above are incomplete this will stop the TA process and BTES will not approve it.

Once the application process is complete, print out the data. "The student still has to print the form

out and take it to the school or fax it for now, but hopefully most schools will one day accept the virtual forms," according to Brown

Even though virtual forms aren't accepted yet, the new OTA process is a time saver.

"It saves the student time from having to come into the Education Center. During registration, it can be really hectic and busy in here, so we usually have a lot of people sitting on the couch watching the news," said Mr. Brown.

No more waiting in line or leaving home for TA. With a click of the mouse the new OTA offers a whole new ease of education benefits available to students.

"One other thing that a lot of students don't use enough with the AFVEC is that they are always coming into the office for their CCAF (Community College of the Air Force) degree plan. All they have to do is click on AFVEC for their education record," said Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown has already assisted students on the new program in the BTES office.

"We've had people log onto the computer up front just to try it out, and the people that have done it have said this is great. They love it. They say I can do this without even coming in here," added Brown.

Visit the Web site <https://www.mil.hickam.af.mil/mss/limited/education/btes/index.htm> to learn more about the OTA application and take an OTA tour to see how this system will work. It can also be accessed through AFVEC via www.my.af.mil.

After Monday BTES will no longer do TA on a walk-in basis. Only for those without Internet access will be seen on a walk in basis. All TA must be submitted online through AFVEC.

If a student has questions or is unable to accomplish the online application, then please call BTES at 449-6363 or 448-0920.

C-17, From A3

way open, orchestrated the two bulldozers, the flatbed and a ring of people around the aircraft. They used hand signals and walkie-talkies as they inched the aircraft down the runway through three 90-degree turns to its parking spot.

"We had to get this runway open and get A-10 (Thunderbolt IIs) in the air to provide close air support for Soldiers on the ground," Colonel Jones said.

"Everyone came together to make suggestions and form a workable plan to help get the C-17 off the active runway and resume normal flying operations in minimal time," said Brig. Gen. Bruce E. Burda, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander. "I am extremely proud of the way our Airmen, Soldiers and civil-



Photo by Capt. Mark D. Gibson

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – Airmen and Soldiers join forces to move a C-17 Globemaster III that ran off the runway Aug. 6. The runway was temporarily closed, but was fully active again in less than 30 hours.

ians came together, devised a solution to this unique challenge, and safely made

it happen to quickly restore airfield operations."

The aircraft is assigned to

CHIEFS, From A1

LeVack, 15th Airlift Wing command chief.

The command chief job is one of many special duty assignments filled by enlisted members.

"Units need an advocate at the command level to ensure equity and fairness for all enlisted Airmen, across all organizations in a wing," said Chief Soltis. "The CCM helps ensure that."

Chief master sergeants make up the top one percent of the enlisted force.

"There are some outstanding chiefs who aren't getting selected but you definitely have chiefs who stand out among the others," said Chief LeVack.

The chiefs are selected by a board made up of a lieutenant general holding a vice commander position at a

major command, the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, two experienced wing commanders and two experienced MAJCOM command chiefs.

"Every member in the Air Force is critical and serves in an essential position," said Chief Soltis. "Command chief duty is just one of the important jobs we have as enlisted Airmen."